

Application Serial No. 10/005,060  
Reply to Office Action of February 20, 2004

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Dock t: C:U-2746

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 4-14 are pending in the present application before this amendment. By the present amendment, Claims 1, 5-6, and 13 have been canceled without prejudice, and Claims 2, 4, 8-12, and 14 have been amended. Claims 15-19 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 7 and 14 stand allowed.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,469,765 (Matsuyama). Claims 1-2, 4, and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Matsuyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,285,429 (Nishida). The "et al." suffix, which may appear after a reference name, is omitted in this paper.

Claims 7 and 14 stand allowed.

Claims 5-6 and 8-9 are indicated as being allowable if they are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, the allowable Claim 8 has been amended into an independent form by incorporating all limitations of Claim 13. Claims 2, 4, and 10-12 have been amended so that each claim now depends from Claim 8 instead of Claim 1. Claim 1 and 5-6 have been cancelled without prejudice.

The allowable Claim 9 has been amended, likewise, into an independent form by incorporating all limitations of Claim 13. Claims 15-19 (which recite identical limitations of Claims 2, 4, and 10-12, respectively) have been added to

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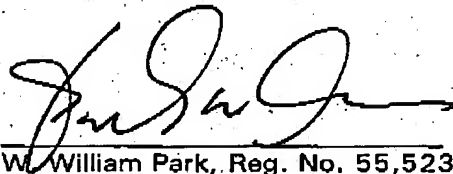
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depend from Claim 9.

By the above amendments, the independent Claims 8-9 are now in condition for allowance and the remaining dependent claims are also in condition for allowance at least since they depend from either one of Claims 8-9.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all Claims 2, 4, 7-12, and 14-19, now pending in this application, either have been allowed or are in condition for allowance. This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance in the next action. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,



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